

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-6 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A polarizer to improve contrast for a liquid crystal display (LCD) from down view angle ~~is produced by laminating~~ comprising a laminate having a triacetate cellulose (TAC) sheet on each side of a polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) sheet and further on top of one of the triacetate cellulose (TAC) sheets applying a surface-treatment layer that is a protective film formed by a black dye mixture to inhibit dark-state light leakage and improve the contrast of the liquid crystal display (LCD) from the down view angle.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) ~~As described in Claim 1 for a polarizer to improve the contrast from down view angle;~~ The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the black dye is a solvent dye.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) ~~As described in Claim 1 for a polarizer to improve the contrast from down view angle;~~ The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the black dye is an ionic acid chromic metal complex dye.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) ~~As described in Claim 1 for a polarizer to improve the contrast from down view angle;~~ The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the black dye is mixed with the surface treatment material in 0.001% ~ 1% by weight.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) ~~As described in Claim 1 for a polarizer to improve the contrast from down view angle;~~ The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the surface treatment layer is a hardcoat layer (HC layer).

Application No. 10/706,957

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) ~~As described in Claim 1 for a polarizer to improve the contrast from down view angle; The polarizer according to claim 1,~~
wherein the surface treatment layer is an anti-static layer (AS layer).